

SENATE RESOLUTION 31

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Tanya Harrah on her selection as the Student Options Academy Grades 9-12 Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest-quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Tanya Harrah is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Harrah has been selected as the Student Options Academy Grades 9-12 Teacher of the Year, a most befitting honor that recognizes the positive influence she has on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Tanya Harrah has been teaching since 1996, first beginning her career in the field of autism. She graduated from the University of California, Riverside in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in psychology; and

WHEREAS, for years, Ms. Harrah worked in-home with preschool students with autism through a contract company before moving into the classroom in the Phoenix, Arizona, area. There, she worked in various settings, including private schools for students with emotional disturbances, public schools in the developmental preschool, and public charter schools, where she helped at-risk high school students; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, she, her parents, and her daughter, Kylie, moved to Brownsville, where she began teaching at Haywood County Schools Alternative School. In 2021, Ms. Harrah earned her master's degree in special education, and, as she enters her fifth year with

Haywood County Schools, she is now pursuing her Educational Specialist degree with the goal of becoming a Director of Special Education; and

WHEREAS, Tanya Harrah is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Harrah serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Tanya Harrah truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Tanya Harrah on her selection as the Student Options Academy Grades 9-12 Teacher of the Year, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.